

Hello, my name is **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)** and I believe I speak for many that cannot be here today, they just simply could not take off work or have family obligations.

Having hearings during the week when people have to work, makes it very difficult.

I wonder if most of the frustration we hear is because people are frustrated that they have to fight for what is rightfully theirs?

Water is the most important ingredient to life.

We cannot survive without good water.

Everyone in this room knows the pitfalls and danger to our water this project possesses. The amount of water asked by this foreign company, for FREE, is ridiculous. City residents pay for thier water use, why should we give it away to a foreign company?

To give away so much water in a semi-arid region that suffers from drought more often than not, is a disaster in the making. We rely heavily on our aquifers. The Ogallala Aquifer is important to the plain states. It is a vital resource we cannot sqander. Human demands on this water that sprawls underneath parts of eight states from South Dakota to Texas. Landowners strive to conserve what's left, they face a tug-of-war between economic growth and declining natural resources. We should not give away so much to a foreign company.

They claim there is no connectivity between the aquifers, and their project is completely contained. Spelunkers thought they reached the end of the third largest cave in the world, Jewel Cave, which is north of the project. The spelunkers were thrilled when they squeezed through that tight space and found yet more huge caverns. We are not confident with Powertech Azarga's claims of knowing what lies beneath.

DR LaBARR has done EXTENSIVE RESEARCH AND WAS SUBMITTED ^{US} AT THE NRC HEARING.

The transportation and disposal of all related waste is an issue with far-reaching compromises to the environment, and contains its own very long list of concerns. They have found radioactive fracking socks discarded in North Dakota illegally. Is there any wonder we are skeptical of another extractive business?



You have heard already, from other testimony that we can not trust this company. Powertech Azarga's lobbyist wrote legislation and got it passed, whether by ignorance or corruption, that has made this project a self-monitored operation. This was intentionally introduced to make it easier for them to Self-Monitor. This was an underhanded and arrogant thing to do to South Dakotans. How can we ever trust Powertech Azarga when they have this kind of dishonest intentions? Why, if the process is, to quote Mr Hollenbeck, "safe and benign", would we need to change the rules to make it easier for a company to destroy an area and then walk away without paying the consequences. Asking for an aquifer exemption should certainly make clear their intentions.

Many people use the very same Inyan Kara aquifer that the mining will be done in, and are at lower elevations. The deep disposal of waste into lower aquifers, is just an easy means for disposal of this toxic waste. Out of sight, out of mind, and too deep to be monitored.

Will it flow into other aquifers?

What happens after they are finished and long gone?

Who monitors it then?

Who cleans up any leaks or excursions from waste disposal ponds?

Who pays for it?

Once stirred up, the process continues, leaching forever into the ground water around the project area. Into Beaver Creek, into the Cheyenne River, into Angostara Reservoir, where people swim, fish and enjoy the outdoors.

Since the recovery of the uranium is not 100% and they are not pulling the other harmful elements out for production, arsenic, which is a known cancer-causing metal and contaminates wells. Molybdenum and Vanadium, etc. are another elements that could be extracted. But I see no intention within permits to recover anything other than uranium. All that will be waste. We recycle plastics, glass and cardboard. Why wouldn't it be fiesable to insist on the recovery of all heavy metals and elements that are extractable from the process?

The market for uranium is at an all-time low. Thanks to the ongoing fiasco of Fukushima and the shift to new renewable technology on the rise.

Why would we risk contamination of a more precious resource, for uranium, that may not be used for energy in the future? Again is this worth the risk? Here I would like to remind you that the half life of uranium is 4.5 BILLION years.

At this time it is not economical to extract. At \$22.50 a pound, perhaps Mr Hollenbeck with his organic farming background should look for a more economic and ecologically sound idea for creating jobs in Edgemont by growing hemp. It's worth far more than uranium.

Once extracted and shipped to Canada for placement on the International market, where would this uranium end up? Perhaps China, North Korea, or Iran?

There are concerns for the safety of our tourists, our second largest economic sector.

We have so many scenarios of accidents going through our minds. What would happen if one of our vacationers had an accident with a truck filled with uranium heading to Canada?

What if there was a fire at the accident? Who would respond?

What if there was a fire at the operation?

Who would respond? Are the first responders equipped and trained to deal with such accidents? The trucks would have to be marked as radioactive. How does that look to people vacationing here? What would be their Perception of the Black Hills then? Would that deter them from a return visit? The company, when asked at the hearing prior to this, they were unclear on many safety issues.

The Black Hills enjoys a relatively sound economy. Agriculture and tourism supports the majority of businesses. We who live here have an opportunity to enjoy the attractions and the beauty as well. It's just a nice place to live. I hope you have a chance to enjoy some of the beauty here in the Black Hills while you're here. If you should visit the shrine of democracy, Mount Rushmore, think about the people, the water people drink from the fountains there. This is water from one of our aquifers. What statement does it make if we allow Powertech Azarga to use and contaminate that same water?

Thank you, and I hope you reach the conclusion that you must not further this permit. Thank you.